

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: LEFTISTS CAPTURE FRANKFURT SPD CHAIRMANSHIP

REF: FRANKFURT 1306 (NOTOL)

EUCOM AND USAREUR FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: BY A NARROW MARGIN, THE LEFTIST CANDIDATE
DEFEATED THE NOMINEE OF LARD MAYOR ARNDTS LEFT-CNETER
FACTION FOR THE CHAIRMANSHI OF THE FRANKFURT SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD). THE BALANCE OF STRENGHT ON THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD IS NOW 9-6 IN FAVOR OF THE LEFTISTS, ONLY
A SLIGHT CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS 10-5 RATIO. AFTER
ONLY ONEYEAR IN THE MAJORITY, THE LEFTISTS THEM-
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SELVES ARE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM AN EVEN MORE

LEFTIST FACTION OF YOUNG SOCIALISTS (JUSOS) WHO SEE THE MAJORITY AS CONSERVATIVE ESTABLISHMENT. LENGTHY DEBATE ON SPD STUDENT-LED VIOLENCE OF FEBRUARY 23 PRODUCED FAIRLY BALANCED RESOLUTION SYMPATHIZING WITH CAUSE OF DEMONSTRATION WHILE DEPLORING DELIBERATE VIOLENCE END SUMMARY.

2. AS ANTICIPATED, FORMER FRANKFURT SPD DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FRED GEBHARDT, CANDIDATE OF THE THE MAJORITY LEFTIST FACTION, DEFEATED MAYOR RUDI SOELCH, NOMINEE OF LORD MAYOR ARNDTS LEFT-CENTER FACTION, FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FRANKFURT SPD SUB-DISTRICT ORGANIZATION, SUCCEEDING FEDERAL EDUCATION MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY FRED ZANDER, A MEMBER OF ARNDTS Coterie, WHO DID NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION BECAUSE OF OVERWORK. THE VOTE FOR GEBHARDT AT THE MARCH 2-3 CONVENTION WAS 223-218, A SOMEWHAT SMALLER MARGIN THAN EXPECTED. KARSTEN VOIGT WAS REELECTED DUPTUY CHAIRMAN, AND DOROTHEE VORBECK WAS CHOSEN TO FILL THE OTHER DEPUTY POSITION VACATED BY GEBHARDT. ERICH NITZLING WAS RE-ELECTED TREASURER. THE TOP FOUR POSITIONS ARE THUS FIRMLY IN THE HANDS OF LEFTISTS. VORBECK AND NITZLING WERE THE ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF THE SPD LANDTAG FACTION WHO VOTED AGAINST A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE DELIBERATE VIOLENCE OF THE FEB 23 DEMONSTRATORS AND PRAISING POLICE RESTRAINT. GEBHARDT AND VOIGT WERE AMONG THE SPD LEADERS WHO KEPT SILENT ON THE ISSUE BEFORE THE LOCAL PARTY CONVENTION.

3. AFTER LEFTISTS MADE A CLEAN SWEEP OF THE FOUR OFFICER POSITIONS, THEY REPORTEDLY BECAME FRIGHTENED THAT THE LEFT-CENTER FACTION WOULD SUPPORT ULTRA-LEFT JUSO CANDIDATES FOR ORDINARY SEATS ON THE PARTY BOARD IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS THE OFFICERS. THE LEFT THEN SHIFTED SOME SUPPORT TO LEFT-CENTER CANDIDATES. IN ANY CASE, THE PREVIOUS FIVE LEFT-CENTER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, INCLUDING ZANDER, ARNDT AND SOELCH, WERE RE-ELECTED; AND A SIXTH REPRESENTATIVE, CHRISTIAN RAABE, WHO WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN BEFORE THE LEFTISTS GAINED CONTROL A YEAR AGO, WAS ALSO CHOSEN, THE NEW BALANCE IS THUS 9-6 IN FAVOR OF THE LEFTISTS, AS COMPARED TO THEIR 10-5 MARGIN ON THE OUTGOING BOARD.

4. SOME NINE HOURS OF THE CONVENTION WERE DEVOTED TO DEBATE ON THE FEBRUARY 23 EVENTS IN FRANKFURT WHEN A SMALL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN A STUDENT-LED PROTEST

MARCH AGAINST EVICTION OF SQUATTERS FROM ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED HOUSES DELIBERATELY ATTACKED POLICE. GEBHARDT AND VOIGT HAD TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST FIERCE VERBAL ATTACKS BY AN ULTRA-LEFT FACTION OF 40-50 DELEGATES AROUND FRANKFURT JUSO CHAIRMAN ARMID KLEIST, WHO SYMPATHIZED WITH THE VIOLENCE AND ACCUSED THE POLICE OF QUOTE NAZI TERROR UNQUOTE METHODS. GENHARDT AND VOIGT SOUNDED ALMOST LIKE ZANDER, ARNDT AND SOELCH IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE AND THOSE WHO CONDONE IT IF NOT IN THE WARMTH OF THEIR SYMPATHY FOR THE POLICE. THE DELEGATES FINALLY ADOPTED A BALANCED RESOLUTION BY 277 VOTES TO 127 WHICH URGED A QOTE NON-CAPITALIST UNQUOTE SOLUTION TO THE HOUSING AND LEAND-USE PROBLEM,SUPPORTED THE RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE, BLAMED A SMALL MINORITY FOR THE VIOLENCE, REQUESTED THAT ACCUSTAIONS OF POLICE BRUTATLIY BE INVESTIGATED, AND DEMANDED THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL (ASTA) FUNDS BE UNBLICKED. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, AND THIS WAS CERTAINLY A VICTORY FOR THE MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE FRANKFURT AP, THE RESOLUTION RECOGNISED THAT THE SPONSOR OF THE DEMONSTRATION, THE ULTRA-LEFT SPD LED ASTA, DELIBERATELY SOUGHT CONFRONTATION WITH THE SPD (MEANING THE FRANKFURT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITES) RATHER THAN WITH QUOTE REACTIONARY FORCES UNQUOTE -- WHICH, PRESUMABLY, SHOULD BE THEIR TARGET.

5. COMMENT: THE ZANDER-ARNDT GROUP UNDOUBTEDLY MADE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR THEIR ELDERS, AS THE LEFTIST FACTON DID FOR THEM IN RECENT YEARS. THE GEBHARDT-VOIGT GROUP, BARELY A YEAR IN OFFICE, IS ALREADY BEDEVILED BY A RISING JUST-KLEIST FACTION. THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE FRANKFURT SPD APPEARS TO BE GETTING BRIEFER. HARLAN

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